



Dealing with Different Kinds of Difficult People

1 Thessalonians 5:14

Pastor Jason Kim
November 17th, 2019



Intro

Contemporary types of difficult people

- *The Critic- They constantly complain, criticize, and give unwanted advice.*
- *The Busybody- Gossip- They spread rumors and leak secrets.*



- *The Sniper - They avoid face-to-face conflicts.*
- *The Volcano - Is a hot-tempered person just waiting to erupt.*
- *The Competitor - Always trying to prove they are better than others.*



- *The Sponge- Constantly in need, but give nothing back.*
- *The People Pleaser- They are eager to please, and they avoid conflict..*



I. The Wayward

- Group number one is “the unruly”. Out of either apathy or rebellion, they’re not interested in learning or serving.
- How do you deal with the wayward? You admonish them.



6 signs of true repentance

1. A Repentant Person Is Appalled by Sin

Isaiah 6:5, “*Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips.*”

2. They Make Amends

Zacchaeus made amends: “Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount” (**Luke 19:8**).



6 signs of true repentance

3. They Accept Consequences

“Do you not fear God? . . . We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve” (Luke 23:40–41).



6 signs of true repentance

4. They Don't Expect or Demand Forgiveness

When Jacob approached Esau and repented, he didn't expect mercy, let alone compassion. In [Genesis 32](#), we read he felt “great fear” and “distress” (v. 7). He anticipated an attack (v. 11) and considered himself unworthy of kindness (v. 10). When Jacob received Esau's forgiveness, he was so astounded he wept: “To see your face is like seeing the face of God, for you have received me favorably” (Gen. 30:10).



6 signs of true repentance

5. They Change Their Behavior

Saul before salvation and after. [Acts 9](#) tells us that even though some Christians were understandably hesitant to trust him, his character had already altered dramatically.

6. They Grant Space to Heal

The fruit of the Spirit includes patience, kindness, grace, and self-control ([Gal. 5:22–23](#)).



6 signs of true repentance

Summary: As an abuser, they love their sin more than they love you. As a repentant sinner, they love you more than their sin and pride.



II. The Worried

- The second group is “the fainthearted,” a term that means “small souled.” They are the worriers.
- To deal with the worried, Paul said, “Encourage them.”



Reflective listening: “Tell me more”

- Identity: “It sounds to me as if you have some questions about who you are and who God might want you to be.”
- Self-esteem: “Am I right that you don’t feel so great about yourself right now?”
- Despair: “Right now you’re dreading what lies ahead of you, when you’d rather have hope that things will be okay.”
- Evil: “You’re wondering why God allows so much evil in the world.”



Reflective listening:

- Guilt: “It seems that you’re having trouble living with what’s happened.”

Video



III. The Weak

- The weak Christian in this context is weak both in faith and conscience in relation to specific issues. Christian who are weak in faith believe that if they engage in a neutral thing, they will sin.
- The weak in this passage were probably Christians with a Jewish background. They came from a background that observed the Sabbath and abstinence from nonkosher foods and wine (Rom. 14:21).



III. The Weak

- How do you help them? Paul's word for "help" means "hold tightly to," or "support."
- As Christians, we are free in Christ. And although we have freedom, God does NOT command that we always exercise those freedoms. But rather, we ought to relinquish personal liberties for the sake of fellow believers.



Conclusion

- 1 Thessalonians 5:14, “Be patient with everyone.”
- “Patience is the ability to put up with people you’d like to put down.”